

Professional Ethics

Programming Ethics

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Programming Ethics

- ◆ the ethical guidelines that developers are expected to follow and apply when writing programming code (also called source code)
- ◆ These rules shape and differentiate good practices and attitudes from the wrong ones when creating software or
- ◆ when making decisions on a crucial or delicate issue regarding a programming project.
- ◆ They are also the basis for ethical decision-making skills in the conduct of professional work.

Programmers should be?

Contribute to society and human well-being.

- ◆ Programmers should work to develop computer systems that can reduce negative consequences to society,
 - ◆ such as threats to safety and health,
 - ◆ and that can make everyday activities and work easier.

Programmers should be?

Avoid harm to others.

- ◆ Computer systems have an indirect impact on third parties.
- ◆ They can cause loss of information and resources that might result severely harmful for users, the general public, or employers.
- ◆ Therefore, software developers should minimize the risk of harming others due to coding errors, or security issues, by:
 - ◆ following standards to design and test systems

Programmers should be?

Be honest and trustworthy

- ◆ This principle encourages programmers to be honest and aware of their limitations in knowledge and education when writing computer systems.
- ◆ Also, if a programmer knows there is something wrong with a computer system, he or she should report it immediately to avoid undesirable consequences.

Programmers should be?

Give proper credit for intellectual property

- ◆ It is mandatory for every software developer to never use and take credit for someone else's work,
- ◆ even when it has not been protected by a copyright law, patent, etc.
- ◆ They must recognize and fully credit other people's works,
- ◆ and they should use their own ideas to develop software.

Programmers should be?

Respect the privacy of others

- ◆ Computer systems are wrongly used by some people to violate the privacy of others.
- ◆ Software developers should write programs that can protect users' private information and that can avoid other undesired people to have unauthorized access to it

Programmers should be?

Honor confidentiality

- ◆ Unless required by law or any other ethical guideline, a programmer must keep secret any additional information related to his or her employer that arises from working in a project.

References

- ◆ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Programming_ethics)
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